

Spring 2007

# SENSORY PROGRAM

Newsletter



## What's New with the Sensory Program?

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- ✓ Things to Remember
- ✓ Did You Know . . .
- ✓ T<sup>3</sup> Updates
- ✓ Equipment Loans
- ✓ Online Renewal Course Flyer
- ✓ 2006-2007 Annual Hearing Screening Program Report Form

And more . . .  
See reverse side!

## This Newsletter's

### "Best Person in the World"

The Sensory Program is one of Arizona's best kept secrets. However, it won't be for long. In a remote, rural area in northeastern Arizona, Tammy Lee is spreading the good word as well as the good work. She is the Disability Specialist covering the Fort Defiance Office of Early Childhood Development on the Navajo Reservation. Tammy travels many hours and many miles daily to provide, among other health services, hearing and vision screening to ensure that the children on the reservation receive what every other child in the state is required to receive. There is no mandate to provide hearing or vision screening to individuals residing on tribal land. Tammy says, "It's just the right thing to do."

*"... it is important  
to find all children  
who are or may be  
challenged."*

Tammy Lee has taken it upon herself to provide health screening to all Head Start students in her district.

Health screening includes, but is not limited to, hearing and vision screening, blood pressure checks, height, weight, dental checks, and developmental screening. She is also trained in mental health and nutrition services. She is responsible for 19 Head Start schools and 340 students. In 2007, this will grow to 52 sites and over 800 students. She oversees 45 staff, all of whom are trained in hearing screening and 30 are trained in vision screening. She has worked with the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind and Prevent Blindness to ensure that her staff are adequately trained. She covers seven school districts: Winslow, Holbrook, Cedar Canada, Sanders and Window Rock in Arizona, and Gallup in New Mexico.

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*"This will  
impact their  
lives and their  
futures."*



## Things to Remember

■ **Equipment Calibration Dates** are required to be included in the Annual Hearing Screening Reports. This is the most common thing forgotten. Please include the date on your reports. ADHS Sensory Program calibrates equipment every summer. If using ADHS equipment, check the box stating you are using our equipment.

■ **Hearing Screening Certificate.** ADHS no longer keeps a database on hearing screeners. To ensure our children are being screened by trained screeners, it is necessary to include a copy of your T<sup>3</sup> training certificate with your report.

■ **Special Education.** Students in special education are required to be screened each year. Hearing screening data for special education students must be separated out and listed in the "Special Education" category on the Hearing Screening Program Report form.

■ **Other.** The "Other" category listed on the Hearing Screening Program Report form is defined as: *students screened in grades other than those listed above.*

■ **Trainers.** The ADHS Sensory Program frequently receives inquiries about who, where and when hearing screening trainings are being held. If you are a T<sup>3</sup> Trainer and are interested in providing training for screeners, always remember to contact Patty Merk, (602) 470-8086 x357, to have your training event listed on the T<sup>3</sup> website. ☎

"Best Person in the World" continued  
Interview with Tammy:

**Q.** What is your background?

**A.** I have six years in the health field. I served in the military for two years. I am trained as a CNA and worked in various health care settings. I am currently pursuing education as a Registered Nurse.

"... the  
right thing  
to do."

**Q.** Why do you do the work you do? Why is it so important to you?

**A.** I do it because it is important to find all children who are or may be challenged. This will impact their lives and their futures. All children who have a physical challenge must be identified and provided with the tools needed to make their lives better.

**Q.** Does the Agency (or Reservation) support your efforts?

**A.** My supervisor doesn't make me do it. He does support it. The [Fort Defiance] Agency supports this program and strongly encourages our work. I do what I think needs to be done and they all support it.

Tammy came to our attention when she requested to borrow as many machines as were available. Fortunately, because she reserved them during the slow season (Christmas Break) we were able to accommodate her request. She drove for fourteen hours round trip to pick them up and return them.

They were returned exactly on schedule.

The reason Tammy is this newsletter's "Best Person in the World" is because she has gone beyond the call of duty providing hearing and vision screenings because it's just "the right thing to do."

Tammy doesn't stand alone. Fortunately there are many "Tammys" out there. We just don't hear about them. This is why we are requesting stories about situations or individuals you feel are also one of the "Best Persons in the World." We want to give credit where credit is due. If you know of someone who you feel needs to be acknowledged, please forward the name and situation to Virginia James at [jamesv@azdhs.gov](mailto:jamesv@azdhs.gov) or to Denisa Brown-Perkins at [brownpd@azdhs.gov](mailto:brownpd@azdhs.gov) so we can include them in future newsletters.

P.S.: Thank you, Tammy Lee. ☺

## Equipment Loans Now Available in 3 Locations

- ✓ Phoenix (602) 364-1400
- ✓ Tucson (520) 324-3600
- ✓ Flagstaff (928) 774-0655

Early reservations are recommended  
– availability may vary. ☺

## Did You Know ...

### ■ Annual Hearing Screening

**Reports** are due between April 1 and June 30 of each year. This is to allow adequate time for all required students to be screened and re-screened, if necessary. (See ADHS Sensory Program Policies and Procedures–Hearing Trainers and Screeners at <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/sensory.htm>). Reports submitted prior to April 1 will be returned to the school.

### ■ Hearing Screening Reports

must be submitted for each school. If reports are being submitted for several schools in the same district, submit a report for each school. If two schools are located on the same campus (grade school and high school) two reports are still required.

■ **Over 630** new Hearing Screeners have been trained in 2006.

■ **During the 2005-2006** school year, over 574,000 Arizona school children were screened.

■ **T<sup>3</sup> Vision Training and OAE training** are back. Training events are scheduled for 2007. See attached flyer for more information.

■ **You can submit your application for T<sup>3</sup> Training** any time throughout the year. Get a head start and apply now. You will be contacted when the date is confirmed. Applications can be downloaded from the T<sup>3</sup> website at <http://www.ag.arizona.edu/maricopa/t3/index.php> ☺

## What's New with T<sup>3</sup>?

- ★ New: T<sup>3</sup> Vision Screening Training in the Spring in Phoenix (1 day).
- ★ New and Revised: OAE, Tympanometry and Otitis Media training available in the Fall in Phoenix and in Tucson (½ day).
- ★ Hearing Screening Training in the Fall in Phoenix (2 days).

More information available on the T<sup>3</sup> website: <http://www.ag.arizona.edu/maricopa/t3/index.php> or contact Patty Merk at [pmerk@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:pmerk@ag.arizona.edu). ☺



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**THE AZ T<sup>3</sup> TRAINING COLLABORATIVE IS  
NOW OFFERING AN ONLINE RENEWAL  
TRAINING FOR PURE TONE HEARING  
SCREENERS FOR EXISTING ADHS APPROVED  
TRAINERS THROUGHOUT ARIZONA.**

To renew your status as an ADHS approved trainer through T<sup>3</sup>, you must:

- Complete an online registration form found at [www.cals.arizona.edu/maricopa/t3/onlinecourse](http://www.cals.arizona.edu/maricopa/t3/onlinecourse)
- Pay a \$50 fee either by check or money order
- Successfully complete the online training
- Successfully pass an in-person observation of your ability to screen children using Pure Tone Screening

Once your registration and fee have been received, you will receive instructions for logging on to the web-based training. Once logged on, you must complete the training within three weeks.

CONTACT PERSON: PATTY MERK, T<sup>3</sup> HEARING SCREENING

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, James A. Christenson, Director, Cooperative Extension, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, The University of Arizona.

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# 2007 T<sup>3</sup> Training Schedule

## For existing T<sup>3</sup> Trainers:

Spring 2007 in Phoenix

Vision Screening Training of Trainers  
(1 day)

Fall 2007 in Phoenix

Training of Trainers in Otoacoustic Emissions,  
Tympanometry and Otitis Media  
(½ day)

Fall 2007 in Tucson

Training of Trainers in Otoacoustic Emissions,  
Tympanometry and Otitis Media  
(½ day)

## The following will be available to new T<sup>3</sup> Trainer Applicants:

Fall 2007 in Phoenix

Hearing Screening Training of Trainers  
including Pure tone Screening  
and  
Otoacoustic Emissions, Tympanometry  
and Otitis Media  
(2 ½ days)

Be sure to apply early if you wish to be a new trainer.\* Existing trainers will be contacted directly by T<sup>3</sup> with event specifics.

For more information, go to T<sup>3</sup> website at <http://www.ag.arizona.edu/maricopa/t3/index.php> or contact Patty Merk at [pmerk@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:pmerk@ag.arizona.edu).

\* Applications for T<sup>3</sup> trainings are accepted all year long.